

MINUTES

Kentucky Oral History Commission

April 22, 1999

Seelbach Hotel

Attending: Lillian Press, Chair
Doug Stern, Vice-chair
Kevin Graffagnino
John Hardin
Lynwood Montell
Debbie McGuffey Thomas

Advisors: Terry Birdwhistell
Sam Thomas
Michael Ann Williams

Staff: Kim Lady Smith
Kathleen Bond
Doug Boyd
Betsy Brinson

Guests: Marlene Helm, Secretary
Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet
Louis S. DeLuca, Deputy Secretary
Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet

Lil Press, chair of the Oral History Commission, opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Press welcomed new member Kevin Graffagnino, director of the Kentucky Historical Society. She also recognized Doug Boyd, oral history archivist, who was attending his first meeting since beginning employment with the Oral History Commission.

It was noted that the minutes from the previous meeting had been approved through a mailing. Press called on Kim Lady Smith for the director's report.

Smith referred members to a resolution honoring the late Roy Peterson, former secretary of the Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet. She then gave the financial report that showed an available balance in the grant allotment of \$14,167. Smith reported that preliminary budget planning for the 2001-2002 biennium general fund request included an increase in grant funds of \$40,000 per year for a total of \$100,000 per year and personnel funds to support the research historian position.

The staff relocation to the Old Capitol Annex was tentatively scheduled to take place in mid-May with the oral history collection scheduled to move to the Kentucky History Center the week of May 10. Smith informed members of the new address, 100 West Broadway, and the new phone number of 502-564-1792.

Smith reported that the two vacancies on the Oral History Commission have not yet been filled by Governor Patton, but that several names had been submitted for consideration. Teka Ward and Thomas Clark's terms expired in February. Smith also informed members that Doug Boyd and Betsy Brinson would both be delivering papers at the Oral History Association conference in

Anchorage, Alaska in October and that Boyd was delivering a paper at the Midwest Archives Conference in Chicago on May 12.

Betsy Brinson reported that she had collected 14 interviews for the pilot project on the civil rights movement in Kentucky and discussed her plans for continuing the project. The civil rights advisory committee was scheduled to meet on May 26. Brinson also reported that a civil rights symposium was tentatively scheduled for February 11 and 12 at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort. Bernice Johnson Reagon had agreed to speak at the symposium. Other plans included development of a theater presentation based on the interviews to be produced by the Kentucky Historical Society museum theater program.

Doug Boyd informed members that with funding from the Kentucky Historical Society Foundation he had purchased \$15,000 in duplication, editing, and production equipment. This equipment allowed him to preserve and /or copy tapes in a digital format, duplicate videotape, and produce sound presentations for use in a variety of media formats. He also discussed the need to preserve the older cassette tapes in the collection that were beginning to deteriorate. Other activities included putting the statewide database on-line by the fall of 1999.

Members discussed the potential for producing radio spots based on the collection and other potential applications using our new technologies and Boyd's expertise. Press called for the establishment of a Millennium Minutes Committee chaired by Doug Stern. Also discussed were the need to rewind tapes periodically and the preservation value of transcription.

At this time, Press asked that each person present introduce themselves, as several had not yet met each other.

Grant Extensions

Elizabeth Beattie requested a one-year extension for the project entitled "The Michael Dorris Collection of the Kentucky Writers' Oral History Project." After discussion, Lynwood Montell moved to approve a grant period extension to July 30, 2000. John Hardin seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

Constance Alexander requested a grant period extension for the transcription project entitled "Connecting People and Place." After discussion, Doug Stern moved to extend the grant period to December 31, 1999. Kevin Graffagnino seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

Smith reported that Anita Stanley, director for "The Kentucky Legislature" project had terminated the grant and project due to a change in employment. None of the \$5,000 grant had been expended. Smith recommended that the Buffalo Trace Area Development District, fiscal agent for the project, be instructed to transfer the funds to the Mason County Museum to support a follow-up project on tobacco in Kentucky. John Klee, Maysville Community College, who had directed such a project ten years ago, would conduct the series. After discussion, Debbie McGuffey Thomas moved to approve Smith's recommendation in accordance with the memo from John Klee to the Mason County Museum with the stipulation that the recorder purchased remain the property of the commission on permanent loan to the museum. John Hardin seconded the motion, approved by the commission.

At this time Press introduced Secretary Marlene Helm and Deputy Secretary Lou DeLuca, Education, Arts and Humanities Cabinet. Secretary Helm addressed the members, expressing her support for the programs and activities of the Oral History Commission.

Members considered the grant applications before the commission.

Like a Member of the Family: Relations Between Black Domestic Workers and Their White Employers in Louisville/Jefferson County, Kentucky

Deborah Spearing Aubespin and Juanita White requested \$2,223.91 to collect 30 interviews with former black female domestics and white female employers of domestic workers in Louisville/Jefferson County. Doug Stern reported that the Application Review Committee recommended approval of the application and moved for its approval. John Hardin seconded the motion. During the discussion, Smith noted that the commission could provide the recording equipment reducing the grant award to \$1,500. Hardin and Stern agreed to amend the motion accordingly for approval in the amount of \$1,500. The commission approved the amended motion.

Louisville's Thriving Refugee Community: Past Histories, Present Hurdles, and Future Hopes

Peggy Cummins, Jefferson Community College, requested \$5,000 to collect interviews with recent immigrants including those from Moldavia, Ukraine, India, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, and Bosnia. The funds would also support transcription of interviews with those whose dialects would make a delay in transcription much more difficult to complete accurately. Doug Stern explained that the review committee recommended approval of the application and moved for its approval. John Hardin seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was approved by the commission.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Oral History Project

Leigh Anne Howard, Spalding University, requested \$5,000 to collect 40 interviews on the history of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN) and the role of the SCN in women's issues, civil rights, and education. Doug Stern explained the review committee's recommendation that the application be approved in the amount of \$4,500 deleting funds for the purchase of a second recorder. John Hardin moved to approve the application as recommended by the committee. Lynwood Montell seconded the motion. During the discussion, Smith explained that she had asked Howard to review the content of a collection on the SCN that was described in **The Guide to Statewide Oral History Collections**. Howard had not yet responded to that request. Noting the need to have such a response and the limited funds available for grants, Smith recommended that the motion be amended to fund the application in the amount of \$2,250 supporting the collection of 30 interview sessions. Hardin and Montell amended the motion as recommended by Smith. The commission approved the amended motion.

Transcription of Joy Bale Boone Tapes, Part II

Loretta Martin Murrey, Western Kentucky University, requested \$1,125 to transcribe fifteen interviews she has conducted with former Kentucky Poet Laureate Joy Bale Boone and associates of Boone. Doug Stern moved to approve the application as recommended by the review committee. John Hardin seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion was approved.

Transcription of Eastern Kentucky University Alumni and Staff Oral History Interviews

Bill Ellis, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) requested \$3,500 to transcribe 50 interviews related to the history of ECU. Doug Stern moved to approve the application as recommended by the review committee. Lynwood Montell seconded the motion. After discussion, the commission approved the motion.

Boone County Oral History Transcription Project

Betsy Conrad, with the Boone County Historic Preservation Office, requested \$3,500 (amended to \$3,000) to transcribe 40 interviews on Boone County history conducted by Scott Kimmich in 1980 and 1981. Doug Stern explained that the review committee recommended approval of the application in the amount of \$750 to support transcription of ten interviews and moved for approval as recommended by the committee. John Hardin seconded the motion. During the discussion it was noted that there was no evaluation as to the historical significance of the interviews and that the sample transcription indicated that the interviews could be of limited value. Committee members explained that they felt the efforts of this northern Kentucky group needed to be encouraged and that transcribing a sampling of the collection would give both Conrad and the commission a better understanding of the nature of the collection. After discussion, the commission approved the motion.

At this time, Press referred members to a letter from Al Smith dated April 20, 1999. Press presented Smith's suggestion that the commission begin planning 25th anniversary events for the Oral History Commission. Kim Smith noted that the executive order creating the commission was dated April 2, 1976. Members discussed several issues related to a 25th anniversary celebration including a dinner to honor founding members, production of radio spots and other media formats to present interview content, the need to involve past grant recipients and interviewees, and the need to develop materials to promote what has been accomplished. Also discussed was initiating an oral history project on the commission. After discussion, John Hardin moved to create a committee to plan 25th anniversary celebratory activities. Debbie McGuffey seconded the motion, approved by the commission. Lil Press recommended that the commission schedule a meeting in early July to review the biennial budget proposal, develop a charge for the anniversary committee and begin discussions of the Millennium Minutes committee.

Lil Press adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oral History Commission Members
FROM: Kim Lady Smith
DATE: May 14, 1999
RE: Up-date

There are two items noted in the minutes for which I have updated information. In regards to the relocation of commission offices, we will move to the third floor of the Old Capitol Annex on June 21 and 22. This will be the move to our permanent offices.

The second item is commission appointments. On April 23 Governor Patton reappointed Teka Ward to the Oral History Commission and appointed Carl Keith Green, a former journalist from London, Kentucky to replace Dr. Clark.